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TELEGRAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198809

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, EAID, XD, US

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: AFGHAN RESISTANCE DELEGATION
VISIT TO THE U.S.

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE USED AT THE POST'S DISCRETION IN BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED VISIT TO THE U.S. BY A DELEGATION OF AFGHAN RESISTANCE ALLIANCE LEADERS LED BY SPOKESMAN BURHANUDDIN RABBANI OF THE JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI (ISLAMIC SOCIETY) PARTY. THE LEADERS ACCOMPANYING RABBANI WERE SAYYID AHMAD GAILANI OF THE NATIONAL ISLAMIC FRONT, SEDGHATULLAH MOJADEDI OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, AND MOHAMMAD NABI MOHAMMADI OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION MOVEMENT. THE
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LEADERS OF THE OTHER THREE PARTIES WHICH MAKE UP THE

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ALLIANCE - GULBUDDIN MEKMATYAR AND YUNUS KHALIS, EACH OF WHOSE GROUP IS CALLED THE ISLAMIC PARTY, AND ABDUL NASUL SAYYAF, LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC UNION - DID NOT JOIN THE DELEGATION:

-- THE VISIT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN U.S. CONTACTS WITH THE RESISTANCE. IT MARKED THE FIRST TIME THAT THE SPOKESMAN OF THE YEAR-OLD ALLIANCE HAD PAID WHAT WAS IN EFFECT AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

-- THE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND THE SECRETARY AND ALSO SAW AID ADMINISTRATOR MCPHERSON AND USIA DIRECTOR WICK. AID AND USIA ARE THE ADMINISTERING AGENCIES, RESPECTIVELY, FOR THE CROSS-BORDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY PROJECT MANDATED LAST YEAR BY THE CONGRESS. IN ADDITION, THE DELEGATION HAD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA.

-- THE VISIT GAVE US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE AFGHAN STRUGGLE. WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO GET SOME AUTHORITYATIVE FEEDBACK ON OUR INITIATIVES IN THE FIELDS OF CROSS-BORDER AID AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITEHEAD GAVE A LUNCH IN HONOR OF THE DELEGATION AND INVITED AMBASSADORS OF POTENTIAL AID-DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO HEAR A PRESENTATION ON OUR PROGRAMS FROM ADMINISTRATOR MCPHERSON AND A DESCRIPTION OF AFGHANISTAN'S NEEDS BY RABBANI.

-- FOR ITS PART, THE DELEGATION CAME HERE WITH A FULL AGENDA OF ITS OWN. RABBANI AND HIS COLLEAGUES DESCRIBED
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THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND SPELLED OUT THE NEEDS OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE, NOT ONLY FOR MILITARY SUPPORT BUT ALSO FOR A WIDE RANGE OF BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES. THE ALLIANCE ALSO MADE CLEAR ITS INTEREST IN GAINING GREATER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND IN REPLACING THE KABUL REGIME IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS.

-- IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, THE MEDIA DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO OUR ALLEGED REFUSAL TO

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"RECOGNIZE" THE ALLIANCE. IN FACT, OF COURSE, WE REITERATED OUR RECOGNITION OF THE ALLIANCE LEADERS AS AUTHENTIC SPOKESMEN OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE, AND THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THEM WAS MEANT TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THEIR POLITICAL ROLE. RABBANI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY DID NOT CLAIM TO BE A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, HENCE THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT THAT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WAS PREMATURE. WE ENCOURAGED THE LEADERS TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF ALLIANCE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

-- THE DELEGATION WAS UNDERSTANDABLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE U.N.-SPONSORED PROXIMITY DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA BETWEEN THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT AND THE KABUL REGIME. THE RESISTANCE IS NOT A DIRECT PARTY TO THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND THE LEADERS NATURALLY LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF AFGHANISTAN'S POLITICAL FUTURE.

-- WE TOLD THE LEADERS THAT, IN OUR VIEW, NO AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED AT GENEVA COULD WORK UNLESS IT GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. SECOND, WE NOTED OUR VIEW THAT THE KEY TO SECURING SUCH APPROVAL AND TO GIVING THE AFGHANS THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY WOULD BE THE PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES. WE REITERATED TO THE DELEGATION THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO GUARANTEE A
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SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED AT GENEVA WOULD BE CONDITIONED IN PART ON WHETHER IT SATISFIED THESE TWO CONDITIONS.

-- IN OUR EXCHANGES ON THE GENEVA TALKS WITH THE DELEGATION, WE NOTED OUR DEEP SKEPTICISM THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS PREPARED TO GET ITS FORCES OUT OF AFGHANISTAN. WE ALSO AGREED WITH OUR INTERLOCUTORS THAT MOSCOW'S TALK OF PEACE WAS, AS RABBANI PUT IT, THE VELVET COVERING THE IRON FIST OF AN INCREASINGLY BRUTAL MILITARY EFFORT TO SUBDUCE THE COUNTRY. FINALLY, WE EXPRESSED OUR SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S SURE-HANDED CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR ISLAMABAD'S INSISTENCE ON THE QUICK WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES AS THE KEY TO A SOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN.

- THE ALLIANCE IS OFF TO A GOOD START IN DEVELOPING THE POLITICAL SIDE OF AFGHANISTAN'S STRUGGLE; RABBANI'S

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THREE-MONTH TOUR AS SPOKESMAN ENDS JUNE 30: IT WILL BE UP TO HIS SUCCESSORS TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE RESISTANCE'S PLANS TO HOLD ELECTIONS BOTH INSIDE AFGHANISTAN AND AMONG THE REFUGEES, TO SET UP A SECRETARIAT, AND TO BEGIN OPENING OFFICES OVERSEAS.

3. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. WHITEHEAD

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